GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:182
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2001
IMPORT OF COTTON
PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton stocks have been piling up with the farmers and procurement agencies while import of cotton is being allowed freely;

(b) whether consequent to fall in international prices of cotton from $ 1.76 per kg. to $ 0.75 per kg., imports have considerably gone up affecting the Indian farmers; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures being taken/proposed to be taken to save the Indian farmers from this disastrous situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.182 DUE FOR REPLY ON 3RD DECEMBER, 2001.

(a): No, Sir. There are no reports of any stocks piling up with the farmers. Even, the stocks with the procurement agencies etc. have come down from 40.50 lakh bales in 1999- 2000 to 30.90 lakh bales in 2000-2001. To enable the domestic Textile industry to procure raw material of desired parameters at competitive prices, import of cotton has been made free.

(b): No, Sir. The import of cotton has declined from 22.01 lakh bales in 1999-2000 to 16.00 lakh bales in 2000-2001.

(c): To protect the interest of the cotton growers, the Government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) of kapas (seed cotton). Whenever the market prices of kapas touch the MSP, the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) undertakes Support Price Operatior and purchases kapas at MSP, without any quantitative limit, in all cotton growing States (except in Maharashtra where the Raw Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme of StateGovernment is in operation). The loss, if any, incurred on account of support price operation is reimbursed to the CCI by the Government.